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COMMON SENSE IN RELIGION.

"Let your moderation be known of all men," said the Apostle Paul. It is good advice. One of Peter's admonitions was, "add to your faith * temperance." It is unwise to go to extremes in anything. Conservatism may be as excessive as radicalism. The golden rule of the "medium between two extremes" is one that may be followed with safety and with profit.

There are, however, special conditions and circumstances requiring extraordinary effort, and persons are raised up by the Almighty for that particular work, and they are endowed with more than common powers to accomplish it. Their example cannot be followed by everybody, but only by individuals similarly called and similarly situated.

One of the privileges of mortals is to enquire of the Lord, personally, and ask for blessings which they desire. Fasting and prayer are means to obtain righteous ends. But often, devout people become too anxious and too persistent in their petitions, and lose sight of the duties of life, becoming neglectful of things that ought to engage their attention. They thus become intemperate in their religious indulgence, and immoderate in their devotions. All that is wrong and is not pleasing to Deity.

We are living in mortality. Our bodies need attention as well as our spiritual nature. We are in this world now, and its cares and responsibilities are upon us and are just as requisite as spiritual aspirations and exercises. It is true religion to attend to them in the season thereof, and to so conduct ourselves that our acts will be pleasing to God and beneficial to man. To preserve our bodies in health and in condition to be useful and live out our full time, is as much a part of real religion as to pray and meditate and sing praises to the Lord.

Fasting is not very common among mankind. Excess is usually in eating and drinking. The appetite is indulged inordinately. But there are people who fast too often and too long. It becomes with them a sort of mania. At every occasion when they think they ought to obtain some special divine favor, they go without food for lengthy periods and by that means weaken their bodies and enfeeble their minds. They render themselves sometimes a prey to evil influences. They thus reach the very opposite of that which they aimed at. This is because of their excess which is intemperance.

It is true that some great prophets fasted many days in succession, a few of them for "forty days and forty nights." But they were exceptional persons and formed exceptional cases. Ordinary individuals are not justified in trying to imitate them. The Church has instituted a regular fast on the first Sunday in the month, and ordinarily this is sufficient. On some special occasion it may be quite proper to extend a fast to longer hours, but wisdom should always govern zeal and moderation temper desire.

Some people become unbalanced in mind by protracted fasting. Their intentions may be excellent but their powers of endurance fail. Every one should understand his or her own nature and strength, and not overtax it expecting that God will intervene, when they waste the energy which He has given them to use in reason. Intemperance in anything is displeasing to the Lord, and this may be committed in fasting and any other form of devotion.

We drop these few hints by way of caution. Latter-day Saints should use common sense in eating and drinking. In fasting and every other act of life. Moderation is rational, and it is also religious. Beware of excess in any direction. Earnestness in a good cause is commendable. Without it there can be no great success. But enthusiasm carried to extremes becomes a species of lunacy and is harmful and wrong.

Some advocates of what they call "temperance" are the most intemperate of mankind. They think it relates to nothing but the use of strong drink. They go crazy over their own idea. They violate law in their efforts to promote law. They look only on one side of their hobby. They have no regard for the views or the wishes or requirements of other people. It is the same in many other theories and pursuits. It is a mark of fanaticism and folly when only one side of a question is examined, and the other is ignored or repudiated without investigation. And intolerance and phrenzy are not right in any cause, but are offensive to God as well as man.

Let us be firm for the right as we understand it, zealous to promote good rules and principles, devoted to our religious convictions, earnest and faithful in our religious exercises, and prompt in all our religious duties. But let us be temperate and moderate and calm in all things, and understand that bodily health, strength and comfort are as pleasing to our Heavenly Father and essential to our welfare, as self-denial, self-control, and the devotional feelings and acts which some folks mistakenly imagine to be the sum and substance of the Christian religion.

A TEXAS MEASURE.

A bill said to be introduced in the house of representatives of Texas, providing that a man shall be justified in killing anyone who "slanders" his wife or any female relative, deserves attention, as indicating the trend of sentiment at the present time. Should such a measure become law, there would be but little possibility of convicting any man of murder, for it would always be possible to prove, that the special prosecution had existed, even if records had to be searched for "female relatives," no matter how remote. That law, by making one man both judge, jury and executioner, would make murderers more plentiful than duels during the past age of so-called chivalry.

Then, how long would this business of avenging angel be confined to one sex? With the clamor for equal rights, women would in time demand a law giving them the legal justification for assassinating anyone guilty of slandering their husbands, or male relatives, or offspring. And why not? The "privilege" of killing should not be confined to one half of the human family. Nature itself does not restrict the instinct for blood to one sex of wolves or tigers. And if laws are to be framed for the protection of the wild instincts some people have in common with the brute creation, there is no consistency in drawing lines contrary to those of unrestrained savagery.

In the Moslem dispensation the avenger might slay a murderer, provided the latter did not enter the city of refuge, or the sacred precincts, in which case he was entitled to a fair hearing as to whether the killing was accidental or not. But the proposed Texas measure has no place of refuge, no chance of an impartial investigation. It simply makes "slander" a capital offense, and leaves the husband to judge about what constitutes slander, and empowers him to kill the slanderer at his first opportunity.

That such a proposition can be made in the halls of a legislature, is certainly significant of the age in which we live. Private vengeance, in the form of lynchings and the destruction of property, has already taken the place of lawful proceedings in many cases. And the authorities seem to be indifferent or powerless. Is this because the people have lost confidence in the officers, or in the laws? Can it be that there is decreasing faith in the system by which law-makers and executors of laws are appointed? If so, the crying need of this country is reform on the basis of the Constitution, and a return to those moral principles, the observance of which alone can make government by the people beneficent. It is not necessary to take an alarmist view of the situation, and yet it is evident, that many symptoms indicate a diseased condition of the body politic—a condition that calls for the exercise of the wisdom and patriotism of the best citizens.

URGING TEMPERANCE.

Ladies of the local society of the W. C. T. U., at the commemoration of the anniversary of the death of Miss Frances Willard, strongly denounced the habit of serving punch and other intoxicants at social functions; also the keeping open of saloons on Sundays, in violation of law. In so doing, they voiced a quite general sentiment in this city, and in many other places, where the law is openly defied in this matter. It is hardly possible to emphasize too strongly the evil consequences of the social customs and the law-breaking referred to. It takes earnest and intelligent work to overcome such evils.

When the temperance work, during the many years of its history, is considered, it might appear as of but little effect. But this would be a hasty conclusion. It is true enough, it has not as yet closed every place where intoxicants are sold; nor has it cleansed every home and public gathering place of the objectionable beverage; but by it a public sentiment has been created that stamps drunkenness as a vice, and compels the drunkard to hide himself from public gaze, to some extent, just as the slaves of other vices do. That this is a great victory for temperance, who can deny? And this has been accomplished by means of persuasion, by the moral forces placed at the service of intelligent beings.

We hope the good work will go on. The guardians of law should see to it, that the law is not broken. They can do so, if they will. Just now a mania has broken out in Kansas, by which it is proposed to correct law-breaking by more law-breaking. This is bad, but the responsibility for that must be borne partly by those who neglect to perform their duty. No sane person wants an imitation of the Kansas insanity, but the best preventive is to see that the laws enacted in accordance with the public sentiment are kept inviolate.

A RAID IN CHINA.

The rumor that seven nations were about to declare war upon China has not been confirmed, but it is now stated that Von Waldersee contemplates an expedition, probably against Sian Fu, the present capital of the Chinese empire, and that the foreign powers represented on Chinese soil are invited to join this raid. That would explain the previous rumor of a declaration of war by seven of the allied powers.

The object of this expedition is said to be to compel China to accept the terms of negotiations. But this sounds strange in view of the fact that only a few days ago, King Edward, in opening the British parliament declared that China had accepted the demands of the powers, and that they were now only talking about the manner in which they were to be complied with. He said:

"The capture of Peking by the allied forces and the happy release of those who were besieged in the legations, results to which my Indian troops and my naval forces largely contributed, have been followed by the submission of the Chinese government to the demands insisted on by the powers. Negotiations are proceeding regarding the manner in which compliance with these demands is to be effected."

If an agreement has been effected as to the conditions on which China can have peace, a military expedition to the interior cannot be needed. The United States did not have to invade Spain during the Paris negotiations for peace.

It is stated that Waldersee believes a hostile demonstration against Sian Fu would hasten the negotiations. Would it not rather cause further delay? Is there any reasonable ground for the belief that the court would not once more break up and take refuge into the interior of the country, and thus make access to the responsible head of the government still more difficult than it is now? It looks as if Waldersee had determined upon the conquest of a large part of Chinese soil, with the understanding that that will be under German supervision for ever, no matter what the final peace terms may be. And for this enterprise he wants "allied" co-operation.

Everything confirms the impression that the division of the Chinese empire was a foregone conclusion, when the foreign troops were landed there, and that all this time, the leading diplomats have been watching for a favorable opportunity to carry the plan out. The sentiment is that a "barbarous people" has no right to any quarter of the globe, or as Dr. Lyman Abbott is reported to have put it: "The barbaric dog has no right to the manger where the Anglo-Saxon ox wants to feed." With this view of the Chinese situation, in which not only the Anglo-Saxon ox, but also the Slavonic and Teutonic, is interested, the time must be speedily approaching when the "barbaric dog" must vacate. We hope General Chaffee will refuse to place his troops under Waldersee's command for the purpose of an inland raid. The American soldiers went to China in the interests of humanity and civilization, and not to serve as a cat's paw with which to rake chestnuts out of the fire for the benefit of others.

THE RIOTS IN SPAIN.

There seems to be trouble ahead for Spain. The queen regent, who is very unpopular with the masses, has not strengthened her position by the union in wedlock of her eldest daughter, Princess Marie of Asturias, to the Count of Caserta, Don Carlos de Bourbon. The reason for this is, that Princess Marie, in case of the early demise of the boy king, would become the sovereign of Spain, and the people fear that the consort, Prince Carlos, who is a Carlist, would, in that event, influence the government in favor of the pretender. Hence the riots that occurred at the time of the wedding, and the placing of Madrid under martial law under the command of Weyler.

It is believed this arch-plotter is scheming for personal advantage, and that, perhaps, the finale to the turbulence will be that he proclaims himself dictator, after the pattern of Napoleon. There is a widespread sentiment in Spain, in favor of some change of government, and if the famous butcher of Cuba has the ambition ascribed to him, the time may be opportune for a coup d'etat. At all events, it is strange that the Spanish queen, instead of establishing herself in the affections of the people, by listening to their reasonable demands, confides in one, whom the whole world has pronounced unfit for positions of trust and honor, Weyler's policy cost the queen the jewel of the Anitules; it may yet cost her house the Spanish crown.

JOBS FOR DOCTORS.

Under this caption the San Francisco Chronicle has the following paragraph which may be worth reading:

"The batch of so-called 'health bills' now before the legislature might better be called bills for providing fat jobs for political doctors whom nobody else will hire. The one thing of importance, and probably the only thing which will be found law after the courts get through with the bills, should they pass, is the one appropriating \$100,000 for the State board of health to expend in 'investigations.' The legislature can fool away the State's money. There is no doubt of the constitutionality of that. It can also vote money to state 'boards' and 'commissions' for the same purpose, and it is safe to say that the bill making the big appropriation is the only one of the three that the political doctors care for. With that amount on hand, they can be admitted to the public crib, and it is those who hope to be appointed or to control appointments who are pushing the measures. Of the two companion bills one empowers the State board of health to usurp duties properly belonging to local boards, which is utterly wrong in principle. The fact that San Francisco just now has a discredited board of health which has proved itself incompetent and revengeful is no reason why the principle of local self government should be surrendered. We are not likely to get another such mayor, and consequently another such board of health. We have had our lesson and we should like to profit by it."

How those Topeka vials of wrath do spill the beer and whisky.

The motto of the Kansas crusaders seems to be: AX, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

As a slayer of lions Col. Roosevelt is facile princeps, Gordon Cumming and Sir Samuel Baker not being "in it" with him.

For Mrs. Nation to read the lamentation of Jeremiah after her raids on the joints looks to an outsider like heaping loads of fire on the heads of the jointists.

Col. Roosevelt will remain at Colorado Springs a few days for the purpose of hunting wolves. If he could only hunt down and exterminate all the wolves in sheep's clothing!

The colonies are very desirous that King Edward should add to his title something that will denote they are part of the British empire. To Rex et Imperator he might add, Lord of the Isles.

Maryland, following the example of some Southern States, will disfranchise illiterate negroes. It is one of the easiest things in the world to do when you don't want a negro to vote to make him illiterate.

It is said the object of Count von Waldersee's expedition into the interior of China is to clean the province of Chi Li of Chinese soldiers, and produce a wholesome dread among the Chinese. If this is not an act of war it is so like it that the difference is merely the difference between tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum.

Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Times-Herald, says: "An ugly scandal lies

half-concealed in the war tax reduction bill. The great tobacco trust has been made a present of about \$9,000,000 through the favoritism of its friends in the Senate committee on finance." There may or may not be such a scandal but usually there is some fire where there is so much smoke, thought it be only tobacco smoke.

Seeing that the Salt Lake public have been treated to many free musical treats in the Tabernacle lately, in which the grand organ has been one of the main features, it would be a graceful and consistent act now, for the public to show their appreciation by attending, en masse, the testimonial concert to the builder of the organ, Mr. Joseph Ridges, on Tuesday evening. A hint to the wise, etc.

At a meeting of Irishmen in New York yesterday the name of the late Queen Victoria, was hissed, while the chairman of the meeting in introducing Miss Maud Gonne, who comes to this country to enlist American sympathy for her own countrymen, spoke in very contemptuous tones of the late queen. This hissing and speaking in contemptuous tones of the late queen can only result in bringing down the contempt and condemnation of the American people on those who indulge in it. England's treatment of Ireland hasn't been what it should have been at all times but Ireland's cause cannot be furthered by hissing the name of Victoria, the name of a truly great and good woman, beloved by millions and respected by all.

In New York the other day two brothers were playing with a pistol. "In fun" the elder brother aimed at the younger and pulled the trigger. The result was that the younger one dropped dead. It is an old story but it has a local application. The other day some little boys in one of the upper streets of the city were talking together and got into a dispute. One pulled a pistol and threatened to shoot one little boy. The other one picked up a good sized stone and dared him to. Nothing came of the dispute but words, but no little boy should be permitted to carry a pistol, loaded or unloaded. They will do this at times unbeknown to parents, but it is a parental duty to see that they do not have a fatality meet easily occur.

RIOT AND REFORM.

Kansas City Journal.
The impression throughout the country is that Mrs. Nation is a wild, fanatical temperance agitator whose zeal has run away with her discretion. But those who are acquainted with her and with the Kansas situation say there is method in her madness. Her purpose, it seems, is not merely to destroy a little saloon property. She desires to test the right of liquor sellers in Kansas to the protection of law for their saloon, gambling and distilleries. Her attorneys were surprised and disappointed that the previous case against her was dismissed.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.
Mrs. Nation's plan of arousing in communities the spirit of Communism, Indians, and leading women and children with hatchets in their hands to wreck property because it belongs to the keepers of saloons, has been in operation for more than a month, without effecting as much as the Washington Court house plan accomplished in the first eight days. The personal encounters she delights in exert a demoralizing influence on the communities in which they occur.

Chicago News.
Now that a practical application of "Dr." Dowie's teaching as to doctors and druggists has been furnished in the attempted smashing of drug stores, grocers and others who sell pork or tobacco should be on their guard these, also, are interdicted at "Zion." The hatchet idea is spreading.

Kansas City Star.
Mrs. Nation will not succeed in pulling the rum rouser in Kansas, but if the sensation which this vehement and spectacular reformer has created will induce a more careful study of Kansas, and thus unfold to the world a clearer knowledge of its peculiar forces, her work will be gloriously and abundantly rewarded. This insight ought to be made a requirement in all institutions for the instruction of the youth of the land, for while Mrs. Nation may subside and pass from the scene of action, there will be other conditions of virtue—or of vice, as the case may be—in Kansas which will amaze and confound the public and cause it to err in its judgment, unless it shall become enlightened as to the real situation, which denotes nothing whatever in the shape of lunacy, madness nor hallucination, but just Kansas, God bless her!

Detroit News.
While sober citizens, who have regard for the law, can not fully endorse Mrs. Nation's methods, there is still something to admire in her. She is not one of these temperance reformers who meet frequently to discuss the same old topics in the same old way, and go home in a speechless fury for having been called to order by "madam president." She does not grow excited once a week over a paper which asserts that strong drink is raging; that delirium is an unpleasant ailment, and that drink is the cause of a large proportion of crime. She does not wring her hands and weep impotently when somebody reads for the 37th time those dreadful things about cigarettes. Not much. Mrs. Nation is a woman of action. She takes a keen hatchet in one hand and a "hefty" cobblestone in the other and goes out to battle like a modern Brunehilde. She tackles, in her energetic fashion, monsters which the sluggish of the law dodges and shies at.

Birmingham News.
Reforms are not to be brought about by forcible defiance of the law and reckless disregard of property rights, and it would be grossly unjust to judge a grand organization like the Woman's Christian Temperance union by the antics of such cranks as Mrs. Nation and her co-belligerents. The performance of this Kansas woman would be highly ludicrous if it did not serve to illustrate the sad result which sometimes comes from overindulgence in a pet hobby.

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Organ solo, selected
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Horace S. Ensign and Choir
Song, "Southern Tennessee," Little
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Miss Williams
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